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RECORD YIELDS FOR SOYBEANS, CORN, AND HAY

Tennessee producers are forecasting record yields for their soybean, corn and hay crops during 2003, according to the October 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. Projected yields increased for all crops from September's forecast with better than average yields also expected for cotton and tobacco. State Statistician Debra Kenerson stated that "Moderate temperatures and timely showers last month proved beneficial for many of the state's row crops." She added, "With harvest activities well underway, producers have a better idea of what their final yields will be." The October forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, a record 132 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the last forecast and 25 bushels above 2002; **Cotton**, 763 pounds per acre, 54 pounds above the last forecast and 22 pounds above last year; **Soybeans**, 38 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels for the previous forecast and a new state record; **Burley Tobacco**, 2,100 pounds per acre, 100 pounds better than the last forecast and 200 pounds above 2002.; **Other Hay**, a new state record at 2.60 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from the August and 0.4 tons above 2002.

LARGEST CORN PRODUCTION SINCE 1920

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 85.8 million bushels, up 29 percent from 2002 and the highest in 83 years. Corn yields are expected to average 132 bushels per acre, 2 bushels better than our last forecast and 25 bushels above a year ago. If realized, this would tie the record yield of 132 bushels set in 2001. Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 650,000 acres, up 5 percent from last year and the highest in 7 years. Mild, dry weather during September allowed farmers to make excellent progress with harvest activities. By month's end, 75 percent of the grain acreage had been harvested, slightly behind last year and the normal pace, while silage harvest neared completion.

SOYBEAN YIELD SETS A NEW STATE RECORD

The State's soybean production is forecast at 43.7 million bushels, up 26 percent from 2002 and the highest production since 1985. Soybean yield is forecast at 38 bushels per acre, 7 bushels above last year and a new state record. Rains during September helped soybean pods fill and kept the crop rated in good-to-excellent condition throughout the month. Development has lagged behind last year and the 5-year average through much of the growing season. Harvest of an estimated 1.15 million acres had begun on a limited basis with only 5 percent completed by month's end. There have been several reports of insect and disease pressure in some areas, but no more than normal.

COTTON PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT FROM 2002

Cotton production is forecast at 850,000 bales, up 60,000 bales from the September forecast and 4 percent above 2002. Tennessee's cotton yield is forecast at 763 pounds of lint per acre, 54 pounds more than last month and 22 pounds better than a year ago. Cotton growers expect to harvest 535,000 acres, up 1 percent from a year ago. Development continued to lag behind normal throughout September, but conditions remained mostly good. During the last week of the month, cooler temperatures and scattered showers decreased the crop's condition slightly to fair-to-good. As of October 5, harvest was 12 percent complete, 7 points behind last year and a full week behind the normal schedule. Cotton defoliation had been applied on two-thirds of the State's acreage with only light to moderate insect pressure in most fields.

BURLEY PRODUCTION 3 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR

Tennessee’s burley tobacco growers expect to produce 58.8 million pounds, up 2.8 million pounds from September’s forecast and 3 percent above 2002. Burley yields are expected to average 2,100 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from a year earlier and the highest yield since 1994. Producers plan to harvest 28,000 acres, 7 percent below a year ago. Yields per acre for dark types are forecast at 3,000 pounds for Type 22; 3,300 pounds for Type 23; and 2,500 pounds for Type 35, all up 100 pounds from the previous month’s forecast. By the first full week of September, virtually all of the State’s tobacco had been topped. The crop suffered some wind and hail damage in East Tennessee, but remained in good-to-fair condition. By month’s end, only 10 percent of the burley acreage remained to be harvested. Growers are now stripping and preparing the crop for market.

RECORD HAY YIELDS ANTICIPATED

Production of hay, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 5.07 million tons, up 15 percent from 2002 and a new state record. Yields are expected to average a record 2.6 tons per acre, 0.4 tons above last year and also a new state record. Harvested area is estimated at 1.95 million acres, 50,000 acres less than a year ago. The state’s hay fields and pastures benefitted greatly from warm temperatures and timely rains during much of September. Favorable weather conditions allowed growers to get third and fourth cuttings on some of their late summer hay fields. Hay has remained in mostly good condition throughout the growing season

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2003, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
			Indicated		Indicated		Indicated
		2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	6,500	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	620	650	107	132	66,340	85,800
Cotton ¹	lb.	530	535	741	763	818	850
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	1,950	2.20	2.60	4,400	5,070
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	4,000	3,500
Soybeans	bu.	1,120	1,150	31.0	38.0	34,720	43,700
Tobacco, All	lb.	35.90	34.04	2,096	2,255	75,261	76,770
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	5.0	5.1	3,110	3,000	15,550	15,300
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.39	.40	3,550	3,300	1,385	1,320
Burley (31)	lb.	30.0	28.0	1,900	2,100	57,000	58,800
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.51	.54	2,600	2,500	1,326	1,350
Winter Wheat	bu.	300	270	46.0	50.0	13,800	13,500
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,555,600	9,351,600
Corn for grain	bu.	69,313	71,765	130.0	142.2	9,007,659	10,207,141
Cotton ¹	lb.	12,426.6	12,107.4	665	696	17,208.6	17,559.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	77,138	82,183
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,575,400	2,618,100
Soybeans	bu.	72,437	72,538	38.0	34.0	2,749,340	2,468,390
Tobacco, All	lb.	428.70	413.01	2,055	2,044	880,734	844,298
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.45	7.60	3,126	3,066	23,292	23,300
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	2.79	2.80	3,636	3,471	10,145	9,720
Burley (31)	lb.	158.60	149.20	1,892	2,033	300,051	303,300
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.61	2.74	2,922	2,821	7,626	7,730
Winter Wheat	bu.	29,751	36,541	38.5	46.7	1,145,602	1,707,069

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.